

## Zito, Kelly

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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 10:57 AM  
**To:** Belknap, Andra  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

OK, thanks for that feedback.

Again, sorry for any crossed wires!

Please let us know how we can improve/help our own communication and glad it seems to have worked out OK!

And happy Friday!

Kelly

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**From:** Belknap, Andra  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 10:55 AM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

I think we screwed it up at the HQ level, after conferring with Dale's boss. We're fine. I was concerned bc OSWER is getting ready to issue PCB guidance for ship-owners and I was afraid the messages would contradict each other, but they don't, so no worries.

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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 1:51 PM  
**To:** Belknap, Andra  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

Not sure what happened Andra. I think we were under the impression you wanted to see the final statement.

With Dale, Bill Noggle and Cathy in the loop drafting it, it seemed to include lots of input from HQ and follow the overall messages we talked about.

I'm not sure how the SOPs work in HQ with Dale or the other comms folks/PIOs... We may have thought that how it was proceeding was OK.

I apologize for any misunderstanding.

Kelly

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**From:** Belknap, Andra  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 10:21 AM  
**To:** Yogi, David; Zito, Kelly  
**Cc:** Behringer, Caroline; Cohen, David; Kemery, Dale  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

I never saw this statement – I was working with Kelly on this issue and this statement should have gone through me or someone in my office.

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**From:** Yogi, David  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 1:16 PM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly; Belknap, Andra  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

Hi Kelly and Andra,

I believe this is the final version that was sent to the reporter, though Dale would be able to tell if you there were any last minute changes made:

**Statement: US Coast Guard Cutter STORIS**

In June 2013, the General Services Administration auctioned the ship "STORIS" on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), which is a retired USCG cutter built in 1942. On October 21, EPA received information that the STORIS was potentially being exported by U.S. Metals Recovery to Mexico for scrapping and that the ship could contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in concentrations greater than or equal to 50 parts per million (ppm). EPA immediately began investigating to determine if the vessel contained PCBs. This investigation remains ongoing.

If the STORIS is found to have contaminants at the above level, the ship owner would be in violation of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). TSCA and the PCB regulations prohibit the export of PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm for disposal unless an exemption is granted through the rulemaking process outlined under TSCA.

EPA does not have a role in approving ships for export. The ship owner is responsible for removing and/or remediating any shipboard materials that contain PCBs in the above concentrations prior to exporting the vessel for disposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks!

- David



**David Yogi** • Public Information Officer • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9  
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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 10:08 AM  
**To:** Belknap, Andra; Yogi, David  
**Subject:** Re: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

We are trying to get it. Dale never CCed the folks in R9 and we also just found out Dale is out today...  
Kelly

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**From:** Belknap, Andra  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 10:02:55 AM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

Kelly, can you send me the statement? Dale is out today.

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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 11:47 AM  
**To:** Belknap, Andra  
**Subject:** Re: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

We worked with HQ on a desk statement that Dale Kemery sent to the reporter... Did he not cc you? If not I can get David Yogi to send to you.  
Haven't heard anything else..  
Let me know if you have more questions.  
Thanks!  
Kelly

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**From:** Belknap, Andra  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2013 6:42:08 AM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** Re: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

Hey Kelly -- any update on this?

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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:24:07 PM  
**To:** Belknap, Andra; Yogi, David  
**Subject:** Hot issue: PCB ship - update

And here is the run-down from our ENF division. Scroll down... We just had call on this and Bill Noggle was involved. He's the HQ guru on this issue. It may make sense for our folks to work with Bill on a response...  
Kelly

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**From:** Jones, Joel E.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:03:49 PM  
**To:** Blumenfeld, Jared; Ryerson.Teddy; Strauss, Alexis  
**Cc:** Scott, Jeff; Miller, Amy; Armann, Steve; McDaniel, Doug; Yogi, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Johnson, Kathleen; Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** RE: Hot issue: PCB ship - update

We (OGC and OSWER) held a teleconference with Bob King (staff for Sen. Mark Begich's-AK) this morning to discuss the status of the vessel and to inform him about the limited role EPA plays in these maritime issues.

OGC gave a brief summary of the process and the various agencies involved in similar export matters. We shared the information we recently received from US Coast Guard, and committed to follow up with USCG to verify their "self-certification" of the pcb-remediation conducted in 2007.

Bob King appreciated the rapid agency-wide response. He also intends to follow up with USCG and others because the larger maritime issues are important to Senator Begich. We'll provide an update to him once we receive additional information from USCG re the Storis.

- Press - OPA and OSWER are scheduled to respond to a related press inquiry from the Vallejo Times. We're coordinating our regional response with Kelly and David.

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**From:** Johnson, Kathleen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:52 AM  
**To:** Blumenfeld, Jared; Ryerson.Teddy; Strauss, Alexis  
**Cc:** Scott, Jeff; Miller, Amy; Armann, Steve; Jones, Joel E.; McDaniel, Doug; Yogi, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill  
**Subject:** Hot issue: PCB ship

Jared,

Heads up that we are dealing with a hot issue regarding a ship leaving the Bay Area (bound for scrap in Texas) which may or may not have PCBs. A short description of the problem follows. Joel has the lead for us and is following up with OSWER and Coast Guard. Sen Begich from Alaska is involved (he has an interested in bringing the ship to Alaska for its historic purposes).

**From:** Devlin, Betsy

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:03:30 AM

**To:** ORCR IO; Straus, Matt; Kelley, Rosemarie; Schefski, Kenneth; Olin, Joyce; Kling, David; Grant, Brian

**Cc:** Elliott, Ross; Noggle, William; Picardi, Rick; Coughlan, Laura

**Subject:** PCBs/Ships -- Potential Illegal Export of a US ship --

Dear everyone –

This is a heads up on a potential issue which is developing rather quickly. The short summary is that we may (and I stress may) have a situation of an illegal export of a ship containing regulated levels of PCBs. The ship is apparently headed to Mexico for scrapping. If the ship does have PCBs greater than 50 ppm then we may have a violation of TSCA. We are still attempting to piece together the facts of the situation, working with Region 9. We are likely to have press inquiries and a press release from BAN.

Joyce and Dave – have sent this to you because this may be a situation where GSA or the Coast Guard may bear some responsibility.

What we know is as follows:

In June 2013, GSA auctioned the Storis (Retired 1942 US Coast Guard ship). As of today the ship is apparently headed to Mexico for scrapping. A US Coast Guard hazmat report from November 2000 shows PCBs greater than 50ppm (which is illegal to export for disposal) in two samples of pipe insulation. It's unclear whether the PCB samples were remediated or if further sampling was conducted.

The losing bidder in the GSA auction was Jon Ottman, who was attempting to purchase the Storis and convert it into a museum ship. Mr. Ottman has also reached out to Senator Mark Begich (Alaska) for help. According to this article <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2013/10/28/storis-supporters-see-ray-of-hope-in-saving-cutter/> Senator Begich is trying to contact us (EPA) to find out what went wrong. Also BAN is planning on issuing a press release on this issue.

We are still piecing together the full story with Region 9, who was made aware of the situation early last week. The communication staff from Region 9 has already received press inquiries and we have asked them to coordinate with us and the ORCR press office before responding. We are also reaching out to USCG to find out what they meant by the following comments in their November 2000 hazmat report: "Please be advised that the CGC Storis is free of PCBs. All material that is above 50ppm and not defined as totally enclosed are considered PCB containing for regulatory purposes." Encapsulated PCBs are still illegal to export for disposal above 50 ppm. We also need USCG to tell us if any further sampling and remediating was done.

Finally, we are reaching out to MARAD to determine why this vessel did not go through the reflagging process.

So, we will keep everyone informed as things progress.

Please feel free to contact me or Bill Noggle in MRWMD if you have any questions.

Betsy Devlin, Director

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Kathleen H. Johnson

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